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VOL. 1. No. 5

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1988.

FAX: 527-6533

PHONE: 527-2808

PRICE: \$1.40

PARK SHOCKER

**This
must
stop**

by Les Shorrock

THANK God the double-headers at Olympic Park have finished.

After the disgraceful schemozzle there last Saturday night, I am beginning to think that it's time soccer, which has put so much into the ground, should leave and find another venue where the code would be treated with more consideration.

On Saturday night, after braving the nightmare of Swan Street, we finally managed to find a parking space.

This mind you, was at 5 o'clock, how the hell those South supporters turning up for an 8 o'clock kick-off got in, I don't know. Maybe some gave up in disgust and went back home.

Anyway, arriving early was no bonus, because the snack-bar was closed, as was the bar. Something to do with the staff having a break, I believe.

You see, the athletics meeting was still in full swing, in fact it didn't finish until 5.55 pm, yes, five minutes before the first game was scheduled to kick off.

Not that the game could have kicked off anyway, because poor Jimmy Paul, the Park's harassed groundsman had to replace the cross-bar on the goal at the Swan Street end and then hook on the net.

As the two teams trotted out to warm up they almost got mixed up with the last race, it was a pantomime, but worse was to follow.

At halftime in the first game, which started 15 minutes late, a mob of at least 250 South Melbourne supporters decided to walk onto

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● Olympic Park scenes like this must stop.

SPEZIALE'S SWAN SONG

STEVE Speziale, who quit as Melbourne's NSL promotions manager last week after only eight weeks in the job, apparently has a chip on his shoulder where the local soccer media is concerned.

Describing some journalists as 'overlords', he said some members of the Press had the mistaken belief that they actually ran soccer in Melbourne.

He also hit out at executives of Melbourne-based NSL clubs describing them as 'little power brokers in a back room'.

He was referring of course to the VIP room at Olympic Park, scene of the recent confrontation between NSL chairman, Sam Papasavas, and VSF chairman, Jack Reilly.

He said these people should sit in the

grandstand with the \$6 customer and listen to what the fans have to say.

He should have tried practising what he preached, by coming down and mixing with the hoi polloi himself.

In fact he could have done even better and

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JACK'S BACK

THE hundreds of people who 'phoned Soccer House anxiously enquiring who the new VSF Chairman was, (after our story last week that Jack Reilly had resigned) can all relax.

'Jumping Jack' is back in the saddle, if indeed he was ever out of it.

Certainly he wrote out his resignation in the Olympic Park VIP room during the Buffalo Cup, but the burning question remains... who received it, and what happened to it?

There was to have been a special Board

meeting on the following Friday night, but that was called off, and by the time the usual weekly Board meeting came round on the Tuesday, the trifling matter of the Chairman's resignation wasn't even on the agenda.

Nor was it brought up at the meeting. When we had the temerity to ask VSF Executive Director, George Wallace, about the matter, he said 'no comment', later amplified to... 'what resignation?'

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More Victorian League fixtures — Pages 10, 11

Olympic Park shambles

Continued from Page 1

the pitch. Some crossed over to the players' race to mob any South players they might find.

Others enjoyed themselves kicking a ball in the goalmouths. Is this the ground, I asked myself, where the previous ground manager once chased away players of an international team for having the temerity to warm-up at half-time?

The teams came out after the break, eventually all the intruders ambled off and the game got under way again.

Up to that point the only policeman to be sighted was a sergeant who emerged from some hidey-hole in the stand to enquire "will there be extra-time".

He brightened up when he was told that there wouldn't be, but his face fell again when he realised that the second game would also start fifteen minutes late.

When asked if there were any other police at the ground, he replied "Oh yes," and gestured vaguely towards the other stand, whereupon a photographer standing next to me muttered: "They must be undercover men".

During the remainder of the first game people were to be seen hopping over the fences with impunity and strolling around the running track, obviously emboldened by the complete lack of stewards, or whatever they call the orange coats.

The situation became even more farcical when the Marconi players came out for a warm-up, carrying four balls.

After a short kick about at the Swan Street end, they started some exercises, whereupon boys jumped in and carried off the balls for an impromptu game of their own, with the ball occasionally going on to the pitch itself, where the game was still in progress.



Police take charge during an ugly scene at Olympic Park.

A seat conveniently left behind the Swan Street goal provided an ideal vantage point for children almost within reach of the goal-keeper... who cares about fences anyway?

The scene resembled a butchers' picnic more than a National League game.

Then South Melbourne set its fans buzzing with a scintillating first half display, and as the second half wore on, more and more spectators came over the fence (which wouldn't deter an active five-year-old, anyway), until there was

more than 500 waiting to race on to the ground.

When Angie Postecoglou scored in the last seconds of the game, that is precisely what they did, although the game wasn't over. One idiot threw a smoke bomb into the Marconi penalty area, and Danny Wright said that in all the confusion he trod on a small boy.

Whilst it might be argued that the invasion was good-natured and meant no harm, the fact remains that some malcontent could easily come on the ground and assault an opposition player or an official.

What we want to know is: How much longer must it go on, until someone gets seriously injured or even killed?

Is the Olympic Park Management Committee too mean to build proper fences or is it indifferent?

After all, the invasion on Saturday night was not a first, it happens at every Buffalo Cup final, and who could forget the nasty scenes of only a fortnight ago as the South fans confronted Preston Makedonia's? It's time Olympic Park lifted its game.



Smoke bombs explode in the Park's main stand.

Jack Reilly is back

Continued from Page 1

It was clearly a political ploy, Reilly flung down the gauntlet, and no-one had the temerity to pick it up.

So Reilly's position has been strengthened, or has it?

Some members of the Board, who are among his staunchest supporters are muttering darkly that enough is enough, and that they are tired, as one put it to me, of being treated like 'coolies'.

"Things will have to change," he says. "I have no intention of sitting there (on the Board), and being treated like a rubber stamp."

State League members of the Board, getting feedback from their clubs, are

beginning to get restive about Reilly's proposed sweeping changes to the format of the Leagues from 1989 onwards.

Six clubs will be relegated from the State League at the end of this season, make that eight, if two Melbourne NSL clubs are unlucky enough to be relegated.

"It's too drastic," said one State League delegate. "Why not spread that over two seasons, what's so special about 1989?"

Incidentally, Jack Reilly said he could find no fault with our original story, except in one detail.

"It isn't true," he said, "that I am nursing a secret ambition to become the President of the ASF."

"My ambition is to put Victoria on a firm footing and nothing more. I think that is a big enough job."

Peter is soccer's new Golden Greek

Tsolakis, the fans love him

PETER Tsolakis, Saso Petkovski and Milan Dimoski are the top recruits of 1988.

At last count, 19 recruits were spread over the six Victorian NSL clubs.

To narrow the field down to three, I adopted only two criteria: drawing power and entertainment value, because talent is taken as read.

Tsolakis, who joined South Melbourne Hellas from Heidelberg-Alexander, tops the list on both counts.

He is the new Golden Greek. The fans love him. They chant his name, they seek his autograph. He is the most popular recruit Hellas has had since Branko Buljevic switched from Alexander in 1979.

Just wait until he starts scoring as well!

Perhaps more than anything, Tsolakis is the embodiment of the new Hellas: young, vibrant, explosive, you name the superlative and it applies.

There long has been a bond of mateship among a crop of young Greeks at various clubs throughout Melbourne — a bond most evident when they get together at the end of the year to play as Greece in Tony Kennedy's Ansett World Cup tournament. Appropriately, these Greeks have won the Cup in the past two seasons.

At Hellas there is a similar bond between Tsolakis, Anezakis, Kalogeros, Postecoglou, Tasios and Giatas. That is not to suggest they are a clique separate from the rest. No, they all work in perfect harmony — and it is that buoyancy of spirit more than anything, that has turned the grim face of Hellas into a smile.

Sydney Olympic in its best years, had the Greek community on its side because of the presence of Raskopoulos, Katholos, Dakos, Kalantzis, Koussas, Patikas, Patalis and Theodorakopoulos. Hellas has taken steps to gain similar support. In fact,

Laurie Schwab looks at Soccer's No.1 drawcard



It is by far the most strongly supported club in Melbourne and every big crowd during the summer soccer experiment has been at a game involving Hellas.

It is a shame Hellas failed, when it had the chance, to sign Joe Palatsides and Aki Kotzamilchalis. Greeks aside, it is a shame also that Hellas passed up the chance to sign Mike Petersen who is among Australia's finest midfielders and who will get even better. Mark my words, Petersen will be as much a Socceroo regular as Oscar Crino or Charlie Yankos — if not this year, then certainly in 1989.



Frank Arok.

Back to Tsolakis. His first appearance in 1988 for Hellas — against Croatia as a substitute — was fleeting. Against Footscray JUST he still was finding his feet. Then, against Marconi on Saturday, he started showing his stuff. His diagonal switches of play were keys that unlocked new avenues to goal. He was in mid-field, he was in defence, he was in attack. Gerry Gomez couldn't handle him; neither could substitute Paul Carter nor Zlatko Nastevski who operated at right midfield for Marconi.

Incidentally, while on the subject of Marconi, why the hell does Peter Katholos sit on the bench? Compared with the midfielders who took the field against Hellas, Katholos has twice as much skills, flair and imagination.

And so Tsolakis is the No.1 recruit of 1988. Petkovski and Dimoski dead-heat for second place because neither has been here long enough to get an advantage over the other. We've seen Dimoski in one full game and one part-game with Footscray JUST, while Petkovski joined Makedonia only last Sunday.

But both have drawing power and both have skill and goal-scoring ability.

There is nothing that the Macedonian fans love more than a top-class player from back home — Vardar Skopje in Petkovski's case. He scored five goals in 12 senior games there and would have had a lot more First Division experiences were it not for competition from one of Europe's greatest strikers, Darko Pancev.

If he can strike up a quick understanding with his former Vardar team-mate, Goce Dimovski, (not to be confused with Milan Dimoski), Makedonia will have a box-office gold mine.

Milan Dimoski arrived from Yugoslavia with the experience of having played in the First Division with Radnicki Nis and Vardar and in the Second Division with Pelister. He had to play a midfield role in the National Cup match against Juventus last week and will get more dangerous when he is shifted closer to goal.

He is a shrewd thinker, he is skilful and strong and if anyone can get the very best out of him, it is Mirsad Fazlagic who by far the most accomplished coach working in Australia. Fazlagic also produces the most entertaining soccer in the league, so Dimoski is bound to play a starring role.

In fourth place among the top recruits of 1988 is Hellas striker Paul Trimboli, who joined from George Cross.

He must be sick of having it regurgitated time and again, but there is no better way to describe the talents of Trimboli than to use a quote from New Zealand national coach Kevin Fallon who said he would swap his house, his car and half his team for Trimboli.

A product of the Brighton Juniors, and central striker in the Australian team that played in the World Youth Championships in Chile last year, Trimboli is slippery as an eel and capable of doing virtually anything with the ball.

Some say he is too small for a striker. Was Paulo Rossi tall? Was Gerd Mueller or Uwe Seeler a giant? Diego Maradona himself isn't much bigger than Trimboli.

He ranks behind Tsolakis, Petkovski and Dimoski only because he did not have the drawing power of those three when he joined. Greek supporters hardly were going to flock to matches to watch a recruit from George Cross. Now, however, his name is on the lips of every Hellas fan. The world is at Trimboli's feet. Watch him go.

We stay at Hellas for the next down the recruit rankings: Paul Foster, the right midfielder who joined from the Institute of Sport. The guy reminds me ever so slightly of Frank Micic — erect, self-contained, never flustered, getting even the most difficult things done

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Peter Tsolakis... he's tops with Hellas.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

BEACH FASHION CUP

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Palatsides 107th)
FOOTSCRAY 1 (Bozinovski 116th).

Juventus won 7-6 on penalties.
Beach Fashion Cup quarter-final at Olympic Park, Wednesday 17th February. Crowd 1300. Referee J. Ross. Cautions: Herd, Zinni, Lane (Juve), Tapai, James (Footsc).
JUVENTUS: Marrama 9 — Marley 7, McDowall 8, Belic 7, Incantalupo 7 — Zinni 5, Herd 3 (Falcons 5, 44th), Patterson 5, Lane 3 — Egan 6, Palatsides 6, Coach Len McKendry.
FOOTSCRAY: Nikitovic 8 — Deankovic 8 — James 7, Fabrizio 7 — Karic 6, Tapai 4, Bozinovski 8, Dimovski 7, Van Egmond 7 — Spink 6, Lujic 8. Coach Mirsad Fazlagic.

NSL ROUND FOUR

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0.
At Olympic Park, Saturday, Crowd 5932. (Double-header). Referee D. Campbell. Cautions: Egan (Juve).
JUVENTUS: Marrama 6 — McDowall 8 — Durakovic 6, Brown 6, Marley 8 — Palatsides 6, Incantalupo 6, Patterson 6 (Belic 65), Zinni 6 — Egan 7, Lane 4. Coach Len McKendry.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier 6 — Barrett 6, Dakos 6, Koch 6, Hooker 7 — Phillips 6, Pontidas 6, Saad 8, Lee 7 — Kosmina 6, Soper 5. Coach Eddie Thomson.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Trimboli 21st, Wright 24th, Postecoglou 90th) MARCONI 0.

At Olympic Park, Saturday, Crowd 5932. (Double-header). Referee C. Brambridge. Cautions: Mason, de Jong (Mar).
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Giatas 6 — Russell 7 — Healy 6, Blair 7, Postecoglou 7 — Wade 9, Foster 6, Tasios 8 — Wright 7, Trimboli 8, Tsolakis 6. Coach Brian Garvey.
MARCONI: James 6 — Gomez 6, (Katholos 80th), Henderson 6, Calderan 6, Wheatley 6 — Mason 6, McCulloch 7, Gray 5 — de Jong 5, Gunning 5 (Carter 65th). Coach Berti Mariani.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0 ADELAIDE CITY 0.

At Connor Reserve, Sunday, Crowd 2500. Referee J. Fearn. Cautions: Flounders (Adcity).
PRESTON: Traianides 6 — Roodhouse 6, Jackson 7, Stewart 6, Ilioski 6 — Petrov 6, Jolevski 6, (Dimovski 71st), Tasevski 5, Gojevic 5 — Brian 4, Smith 4. Coach Ernie Merrick.
ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6 — Shillabeer 6, Nyskohus 6, Flounders 6, Tobin 6 — Melita 5, Stranac 6, Villani 5, Sorensen 6 — Mullen 5, Maxwell 4. Coach Zoran Matić.

BRISBANE LIONS 2 (Stewart, pen. 52nd, Lightbown 90th) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 3 (Richardson 11th, Clark 33rd, McLaren 59th).

At Richlands, Saturday, Crowd 1009 Referee A. Kibbler, Cautions: Stewart (Lions) Marth, Parton, Campelj (George X).
BRISBANE LIONS: Kearton — Mengotti, Stewart, Liddell, Cummings — Niven, Kirsopp, Ogden, Wheeler — Lightbown, Dwyer (Drury 40th). Coach Juan. Cutillas.
GEORGE CROSS: Keogh — Campelj, Richardson, Parton, Marth (T. Markovski 90th) — Faulkner, McLaren, Lennon, Hasler (Waddell 72nd). Coach John Gardiner.

SYDNEY CROATIA 4 (Jennings 58th, Arnold 62nd, Slater 81st, Ingham 85th) APIA LEICHHARDT 2 (Bertogna pen. 46th, M. Brown 67th).

At Croatia Sports Centre, Crowd 4242. Referee G. Power Cautions: Zajmi, Reynolds, Yankos, Phillips (APIA), Rezo, Jones (Croatia).
SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken — Savor, Rozic, Hunter, Jennings — Rezo (Ingham 55th), Petkovcic, Jones, Arnold — Slater, Krislovic, Coach Vedran. Rozic.
APIA: Pezzano — de Marigny, Yankos, Bertogna, Brown — Watson, Zajmi, Butler, Phillips — McKinna (Parison 82nd), Reynolds (Tredinnick 70th). Coach Rale. Rasic.

ST. GEORGE 2 (Petkovski 48th, Hagan 52nd) FOOTSCRAY 0

At St. George Stadium Sunday, Crowd 2224, Referee J. McConnell. Sent off Crino (Footsc).
ST. GEORGE: Gibson — Green, Koczka, Choi, Grbevski — Torteviski, Moffitt, Pottier — Ollerenshaw, Hagan Petkovski. Coach Frank Arok.
FOOTSCRAY: Nikitovic — James (Karic 60th), Deankovic, van Egmond, Fabrizio — Murphy, Crino (sent off 67th), Bozinovski, Dimovski — Tapai, Spink. Coach Mirsad Fazlagic.

WOLLONGONG 4 (Giraldi 14th, Ainsworth pen. 25th, Craine 39th, Easthorpe 78th) MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Biskic 57th) At Brandon Park Sunday, Crowd 2836 Referee A. Owens.

WOLLONGONG: Young — Skeen, Viletstra, Ratcliffe, Morlando — Cokeley (Cotton 78th), Ainsworth, Giraldi, Craine — Easthorpe, Stefanovski (Brodnik 63rd). Coach John Fleming.
MELBOURNE CROATIA: Oler — Heys, Hannah, Dobson, Donnelly — Talajic (Caleta 67th), Biskic, Scott, Milosevic — Lewis, Murphy. Coach Ian Wallace.

HOW THEY STAND

NSL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
Wollongong	4	3	1	0	10	4	7
Syd Croatia	4	3	0	1	7	5	6
Syd Olympic	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Sth. Melbourne	4	1	3	0	5	2	5
St. George	4	2	0	2	10	5	4
Marconi	4	2	0	2	9	7	4
B. Juventus	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Mel. Croatia	4	1	2	2	5	7	4
George Cross	4	2	0	2	4	9	4
Footscray	4	1	1	2	5	5	3
Bris. Lions	4	1	1	2	7	8	3
Preston Mak.	4	0	3	1	0	2	3
APIA Leich.	4	1	0	3	3	8	2
Adelaide C.	4	1	2	2	2	9	2

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE

Sth. Melb.	4	3	1	0	15	3	7
George Cross	3	3	0	0	13	2	6
Preston Mak.	4	3	0	1	13	5	6
Clairinda	3	3	0	1	10	6	6
Mel. Croatia	4	1	3	0	9	6	5
Oakleigh	3	1	2	0	9	8	4
Footscray	4	2	0	2	4	6	4
B. Juventus	4	1	1	2	9	9	3
Heidelberg	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
Caulfield City	4	1	1	2	5	9	3
Clifton Hill	4	0	2	2	7	15	2
Nunawading	4	0	1	3	4	17	1
Wav./Mulg. Unl.	3	0	0	3	3	12	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS: NSC.

5 Farina (Marconi); 3 Easthorpe (Woll), Spink (Footsc); 2 Ainsworth, 1 pen., (Woll), Clark (G.X.), Crino (Footsc), Egan (Juve), Koczka and Ollerenshaw (St. G), Lewis 2 pens., & Murphy P. (M. Cro), Lightbown & Stewart, R. 2 pens (Lions), Pontidas (Syd. Olympic 1.) Trimboli (South).

It was one long yawn!

JUVENTUS 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0.

IF ever there was a case to be made for three points for a win, the games last weekend justified it.

Both Sydney Olympic and then Adelaide City against Preston were happy to settle for the draw and one point.

And their opponents, the home teams, seemed just as happy to do the same. It's a policy of fear, which negates attacking soccer.

Man of the match:
STEVE MARLEY

What highlights there were came in the first half of this game. Marshall Soper unleashed a thunderbolt that Pat Marrama did well to tip over the bar, and Gary Phillips headed off his goal-line.

Apart from that it was one long yawn, relieved only when Charlie Egan, no doubt out of sheer frustration, fouled Robert Hooker and was booked.

Garry McDowall was commanding at the back for Juve and also managed a few sorties up-field, whilst Steve

Marley, shifting over to the left flank for the second half had a superb game.

Let's draw a veil over the rest.

— Les Shorrock

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Trimboli 21st, Wright 24th, Postecoglou 90th) MARCONI 0.

NOTHING succeeds like success they say, and nearly 6,000 turned up to see this match of the week and weren't disappointed.

After South's three draws in succession, we posed the question last week, "can South win?" because it had seemed that Garvey's Babes ran themselves into the ground in the first halves, and wilted in the second.

But South settled that canard once and for all on Saturday night.

It took an iron grip on the game early in the first half and ever re-entled, and a Farina-less Marconi didn't have a hope.

The speed of South's attacking midfield, where Steve Tasio was outstanding was more than the Marconi defenders could cope with and the inevitable goal came in the 21st minute when the

ball bobbed about in the Marconi penalty area until Paul Trimboli drove it home.

Only three minutes later Paul Foster burst through the Marconi off-side trap.

There's a warning for other defences, don't try the offside game against South.

Man of the match:
PAUL WADE

The Marconi defenders stood still, anticipating a whistle which never came and eventually Bruce James threw himself at Foster's feet, but the ball ran to Danny Wright who happily slammed it into the net.

At half-time we speculated... will South wilt in the second half and let Marconi back into the game?

We needn't have worried, the onslaught continued unabated and substitute Paul Carter headed a Wright shot off the line with James well beaten.

Then, in the dying seconds of the game, a delightful three man move, started by Peter Tsolakis ended with

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THERE are only a handful of players of whom it can be said that they are instantly recognised all over the world and one of them is Robert Charlton, OBE.

A gentle man who was never known to retaliate, Charlton played 604 games for Manchester United from 1956 to 1973 scoring 198 goals before ending his career with 38 games for Preston North End.

He is the Red Devils most illustrious player, with most appearances and goals, and most International caps (106). Only England's World Cup-winning captain Bobby Moore has surpassed Charlton with 108 caps.

He was born into a footballing family in Ashington, County Durham on October 11 1937, younger brother of almost as famous Jack and Nephew of Newcastle United and England forward Jackie Milburn.

Taught the basics of school, and became one of Busby's Babes.

He made his debut against Charlton Athletic at the age of 19, scoring

BOBBY CHARLTON The Perfect Footballer

BOBBY CHARLTON OBE By Les Shorrock

statesman of his club and led the fragmented Reds to another Cup-Final on a great wave of public sympathy.

Alas, there was no fairytale ending, United lost for the second time in succession, going down 2-0 to Bolton Wanderers.

Charlton had to wait another five years for a winner's medal, when the new United beat Leicester City 3-1.

Not yet 21 then, Charlton virtually overnight became the elder twice, and played in the 57 Cup-Final on the losing side.

the game by his mother,

he went straight to Old Trafford on leaving wiped out one of Manchester United's best ever teams. Eight first team players, the coach, trainer, club secretary and eight journalists were all killed when their plane failed to take off in Munich.

It was the golden sixties for Bobby, he won a championship medal in '65 and another in '67, then a European Cup-winners medal in '68.

But the pinnacle was reached when England won the World Cup at Wembley in 1966.

As the final whistle blew, Charlton turned to his team-mate and brother Jackie, in tears and said 'we've won the World Cup — what more is there left?'

Supreme as a winger, deadly as a striker, a mid-field general — par excellence, his attributes seemed endless. Every follower of the game has his personal favourites for different position, but to most of us Bobby Charlton was and always will be, the nearest thing to footballing perfection whatever position he played.

The record League games, Manchester United 604, Preston 38, League goals 198 for United and 8 for Preston. For England, 106 caps and 49 goals.

Honours OBE, World Cup-winners medal, European Cup-winners medal, League championship medals '57, '65 & '67, FA Cup-winners medal '63, Runners-up medals '57 & '58, European Footballer of the Year '66, Footballer of the Year '66.

• • •

Tsolakis, the fans love him

Continued From Page 3

while appearing never to be in a hurry. He was brilliant in his first league match — a scoreless draw with Makedonia. He was part of the reason that JUST left back Eddie Campbell was substituted for George Cross.

"One of the club's oldest supporters — I can't remember Juventus without him — made a point of coming into the press box afterwards to say: "You writers must tell the public what is going on here. This is the worst soccer Juventus has ever played. It is a disgrace."

Charlie Egan and Gary McDowall are both good players, albeit Egan is past his best and McDowall, as a defender, is not box-office.

Neither is Steve Marley, nor Willie Herd. What Juventus needs is a new approach, a breath of fresh air like the one that is sweeping through Hellas.

Shouldn't the Juventus members be asking why Luciano Fabrizio — and Italian boy — was virtually ignored while he was with the club, yet is playing excellent soccer at Footscray JUST?

In fact, among the recruits, I would line up Fabrizio right behind Oliver. He plays in midfield, he can score goals if you use him up front, and he can

fill in at the back if you need him to.

Of the other recruits, David Healy has been playing soundly in defence at Hellas, Aki Kotzamalichas should prove a firm crowd favourite when he starts playing for George Cross, Paul Donnelly and Joe Caleta haven't done anything yet at Croatia, we're waiting to see JUST's new defender Vasco Mitrevski from Rockdale Ilinden, and the same goes for George Cross's John Waddell, a Scottish defender ex-Norwich, Dundee and Dunfermline. Matthew Tomas, the young goalkeeper who moved from Croatia to Makedonia, is playing in the reserves.

Great News for Roos

JIM Patikas of AEK Athens will be with the Soccerroos for all their Olympic qualifying games while David Mitchell of Feyenoord will play against New Zealand and Israel in the away legs in New Zealand.

It is great news for the Soccerroos because both are goalscorers and Patikas will add pace and creativity to the midfield.

It is coach Frank Arok's problem how he will fit them in and whom he will drop.

However, there can surely be no doubting that Mitchell is a far better player than John Kosmina. OK, so Kosmina scored twice in his comeback match

against Dinamo Zagreb but watching him against Juventus the other night, he looked just as slow and cumbersome as he did in his worst games for Australia. Mitchell is much faster, he is taller and he has succeeded in European First Division soccer, first with Glasgow Rangers, then Eintracht Frankfurt and now Feyenoord.

What a pity that a rift still exists between Arok and Eddie Krncevic of Anderlecht. Krncevic is by far the most successful footballer Australia has produced, having played for Dinamo Zagreb, MSV Duisburg, Cercle Bruges and now the great Anderlecht.

There is, however, a strong chance that we'll see him guesting with either Melbourne Croatia or Sydney Croatia during the European off-season. Melbourne Croatia intends to make an approach for him.

While on the subject of expatriates, did you hear that Craig Johnston of Liverpool would be delighted to come back to the country he calls home, to play for Australia in the Bicentennial Gold Cup — providing it doesn't harm his chances of playing for England! A true blue Aussie, our Craig.

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

PREVIEWS

FOOTSCRAY V. WOLLONGONG CITY

At Schintler Reserve, Sunday k.o. 6 pm.

There should be a bumper crowd at Schintler Reserve for this match, which thanks to Wollongong's tremendous start to the season must be regarded as the match of the round, despite Footscray's 10th position.

Footscray of course will feel the absence of the suspended Oscar Crino very keenly.

He is the driving force in the midfield, and it's hard to see who coach Mirsad Fazlagic can use to replace him.

We thought that without Alan Brazil Wollongong would falter, how wrong can you be?

Wollongong rattled in four goals last week against Melbourne Croatia but left Croatia coach Ian Wallace unimpressed.

"We gave away three of the goals," he says "with sloppy defensive work."

Another factor in 'Gong's rise to the top has been its favourable draw. It has played three of its games at home, with only one away trio, when it beat Adelaide City.

This should be close, but Footscray should win, even without Crino.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS V. BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS

At Chaplin Reserve, Sunday k.o. 6 pm.

George, despite an horrendous start to the season will present Juventus with a few problems.

Coach John Gardiner will be without Steve Richardson who has gone back to Scotland but he will be hoping that Aki Kotzamalichas, the gentle giant, who has been signed from Polonia will slot into Richardson's spot.

Midfielder John Waddell arrived from Scotland in time to sit on the bench in Brisbane and no doubt he will be getting a longer run this week.

After the way the Juve attack shaped last week, the George fans are entitled to expect two more points to come their way on Sunday.

MELBOURNE CROATIA V. PRESTON MAKEDONIA

At Olympic Park Sunday k.o. 6 pm.

Form is very hard to assess at this time of the year. Who could have anticipated Melbourne

Croatia getting walloped 4-1 at Wollongong after putting up such a good performance against St. George in the previous round?

Especially as St. George came to that game after beating Adelaide City 6-0!

Ian Wallace's only explanation for the heavy defeat was that his team had 'donated' three goals to the 'Gong.

His defence will no doubt be on its toes this week, against a Preston attack that will be getting desperate to score a goal. Preston seems shell-shocked after that heavy Buffalo Cup-final loss, and Steve Smith in particular will have to pull his socks up if he is to justify all those nice things Craig MacKenzie has had to say about him.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC V. SOUTH MELBOURNE

At Parramatta Stadium Sunday k.o. 6 pm.

Happy days are here again, it appears, for South Melbourne and after we posed the question last week, "does South know now to win?", the players answered that in the most decisive manner.

Sydney Olympic will need to be a lot more positive than it was here last week against Juventus or it will find itself over-run by Garvey's eager Babes.

IT WAS ONE LONG YAWN!

Continued From Page 4

SYDNEY CROATIA V. ADELAIDE CITY

At the Croatian Sports Centre Sunday 4pm k.o.

If form meant anything in this League, you would be inclined to think that Adelaide City's visit to Sydney for this game was mission impossible.

But as George Cross has shown, form means nothing if you are determined enough. The question remains though, has Adelaide City got that determination?

Against Preston last week it was at least 70% possession, but did nothing with it.

And if Flounders is missing from the heart of the defence, how will Adcity cope with Robbie Slater's dash?

It looks like a home banker, doesn't it?

MARCONI V. ST. GEORGE

At Marconi Stadium Sunday 6pm k.o.

Frank Farina is back for Marconi after suspension and he could make the difference here.

As Eddie Thomson said to me last week as he watched Marconi in

action against South, "Marconi's only half a team without Frank."

It's not taking anything away from South of course, on last week's form it would have beaten any other team in the League, but Marconi was notably shot-shy.

If I have to plump for one team, I'll have to go for Marconi, especially with the ground advantage.

APIA LEICHHARDT V. BRISBANE LIONS

At Wentworth Park, Sunday 6pm k.o.

Have the wheels fallen off at APIA? Were any wheels on at Brisbane in the first place? If Brisbane Lions can lose to George Cross at home, local refs and all what chance have they got in Sydney?

Last week must have been national bad back-pass week. Like Melbourne Croatia's Ian Wallace, APIA's Rale Rasic was bemoaning, with some reason, the loss of three goals caused by defensive errors.

If APIA doesn't win this one, it might just as well hand back the championship shield right now.

IT WAS ONE LONG YAWN!

Continued From Page 4

and Jim Fearn awarded a penalty, much to Flounders' indignation.

His indignation increased when the ref also booked him... for the trip, as he later explained.

However he was happy seconds later as he saw Steve Smith's feeble spot-kick dribble straight along the ground into a grateful Robert Zabika's arms.

Man of the match:
THE PRESTON FANS

Both sides gave up early in the second half and settled for a point, although Joe Mullen nearly spoilt the pattern by scoring, but in the true spirit of the afternoon, he somehow contrived to miss an open goal at point-blank range.

The fans were whistling for coach Ernie Merrick to make a change and he did, bringing on Goce Dimovski who had absolutely no impact on the game.

How Merrick must long for the return of the injured Ron Campbell to bring back a bit of class into the team.

DIVISION THREE

VICTORIAN LEAGUE FIXTURES 1988

ROUND ONE (SATURDAY APRIL 2nd 1988)
 Coburg v. Bell Park
 Hawthorn v. Seaford United
 Clarinda v. Mornington
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Geelong
 Laor United v. Yallourn
 Moorabbin City v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Corio/Geelong Un. v. Springvale United

ROUND TWO (SAT. APRIL 9th 1988)
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Corio/Geelong Un.
 Yallourn v. Moorabbin City
 Geelong v. Laor United
 Mornington v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Seaford United v. Clarinda
 Springvale United v. Coburg
 Springvale United v. Coburg
 Bell Park v. Hawthorn

ROUND THREE (SAT. APRIL 16th 1988)
 Hawthorn v. Coburg
 Clarinda v. Bell Park
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Seaford United
 Laor United v. Mornington
 Moorabbin City v. Geelong
 Corio/Geelong Un. v. Yallourn
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Springvale United

ROUND FOUR (SAT. APRIL 23rd 1988)
 Yallourn v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Geelong v. Corio/Geelong United
 Mornington v. Moorabbin City
 Seaford United v. Laor United
 Springvale United v. Hawthorn
 Bell Park v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Coburg v. Clarinda

ROUND FIVE (SAT. APRIL 30th 1988)
 Clarinda v. Hawthorn
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Coburg
 Laor United v. Bell Park
 Moorabbin City v. Seaford United
 Corio/Geelong United v. Mornington
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Geelong
 Yallourn v. Springvale United

ROUND SIX (SAT. MAY 7th 1988)
 Geelong v. Yallourn
 Mornington v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Seaford United v. Corio/Geelong United
 Springvale United v. Clarinda
 Bell Park v. Moorabbin City
 Coburg v. Laor United
 Hawthorn v. Hamlyn Rangers

ROUND SEVEN (SAT. MAY 14th 1988)
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Clarinda
 Laor United v. Hawthorn
 Moorabbin City v. Coburg

Corio/Geelong United v. Bell Park
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Seaford United
 Yallourn v. Mornington
 Geelong v. Springvale United
ROUND EIGHT (SAT. MAY 21st 1988)
 Mornington v. Geelong
 Seaford United v. Yallourn
 Springvale United v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Bell Park v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Coburg v. Corio/Geelong United
 Hawthorn v. Moorabbin City
 Clarinda v. Laor United

ROUND NINE (SAT. MAY 28th 1988)
 Laor United v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Moorabbin City v. Clarinda
 Corio/Geelong United v. Hawthorn
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Coburg
 Yallourn v. Bell Park
 Geelong v. Seaford United
 Mornington v. Springvale United

ROUND TEN (SAT. JUNE 4th 1988)
 Seaford United v. Mornington
 Springvale United v. Laor United
 Bell Park v. Geelong
 Coburg v. Yallourn
 Hawthorn v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Clarinda v. Corio/Geelong United
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Moorabbin City

ROUND ELEVEN (SAT. JUNE 11th 1988)
 Moorabbin City v. Laor United
 Corio/Geelong United v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Clarinda
 Yallourn v. Hawthorn
 Geelong v. Coburg
 Mornington v. Bell Park
 Seaford United v. Springvale United

ROUND TWELVE (SAT. JUNE 18th 1988)
 Springvale United v. Moorabbin City
 Bell Park v. Seaford United
 Coburg v. Mornington
 Hawthorn v. Geelong
 Clarinda v. Yallourn
 Corio/Geelong United v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Laor United v. Corio/Geelong United

ROUND THIRTEEN (SAT. JUNE 25th 1988)
 Corio/Geelong United v. Moorabbin City
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Laor United
 Yallourn v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Geelong v. Clarinda
 Mornington v. Hawthorn
 Seaford United v. Coburg
 Springvale United v. Bell Park

ROUND FOURTEEN (SAT. JULY 2nd 1988)
 Bell Park v. Coburg
 Seaford United v. Hawthorn
 Mornington v. Clarinda
 Geelong v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Yallourn v. Laor United
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Moorabbin City
 Springvale United v. Corio/Geelong United

ROUND FIFTEEN (SAT. JULY 9th 1988)
 Corio/Geelong Un. v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Moorabbin City v. Yallourn
 Laor United v. Geelong
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Mornington
 Clarinda v. Seaford United
 Coburg v. Springvale United
 Hawthorn v. Bell Park

ROUND SIXTEEN (SAT. JULY 16th 1988)
 Coburg v. Hawthorn
 Bell Park v. Clarinda
 Seaford United v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Mornington v. Laor United
 Geelong v. Moorabbin City
 Yallourn v. Corio/Geelong United
 Springvale United v. Moreland Park Rangers

ROUND SEVENTEEN (SAT. JULY 23rd 1988)
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Yallourn
 Corio/Geelong United v. Geelong
 Moorabbin City v. Mornington
 Laor United v. Seaford United
 Hawthorn v. Springvale United
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Bell Park
 Clarinda v. Coburg

ROUND EIGHTEEN (SAT. JULY 30th 1988)
 Hawthorn v. Clarinda
 Coburg v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Bell Park v. Laor United
 Seaford United v. Moorabbin City
 Mornington v. Corio/Geelong United
 Geelong v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Springvale United v. Yallourn

ROUND NINETEEN (SAT. AUGUST 6th 1988)
 Yallourn v. Geelong
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Mornington
 Corio/Geelong United v. Seaford United
 Clarinda v. Springvale United
 Moorabbin City v. Bell Park
 Laor United v. Coburg
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Hawthorn

ROUND TWENTY (SAT. AUGUST 13th 1988)
 Clarinda v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Hawthorn v. Laor United
 Coburg v. Moorabbin City
 Bell Park v. Corio/Geelong United

Seaford United v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Mornington v. Yallourn
 Springvale United v. Geelong

ROUND TWENTY-ONE (SAT. AUGUST 20th 1988)
 Geelong v. Mornington
 Yallourn v. Seaford United
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Springvale United
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Bell Park
 Corio/Geelong United v. Coburg
 Moorabbin City v. Hawthorn
 Laor United v. Clarinda

ROUND TWENTY-TWO (SAT. AUGUST 27th 1988)
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Laor United
 Clarinda v. Moorabbin City
 Hawthorn v. Corio/Geelong United
 Coburg v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Bell Park v. Yallourn
 Seaford United v. Geelong
 Springvale United v. Mornington

ROUND TWENTY-THREE (SAT. SEPT. 3rd 1988)
 Mornington v. Seaford United
 Laor United v. Springvale United
 Geelong v. Bell Park
 Yallourn v. Coburg
 Moreland v. Hawthorn
 Corio/Geelong United v. Clarinda
 Moorabbin City v. Hamlyn Rangers

ROUND TWENTY-FOUR (SAT. SEPT. 10th 1988)
 Laor United v. Moorabbin City
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Corio/Geelong United
 Clarinda v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Hawthorn v. Yallourn
 Coburg v. Geelong
 Bell Park v. Mornington
 Springvale United v. Seaford United

ROUND TWENTY-FIVE (SAT. SEPT. 17th 1988)
 Moorabbin City v. Springvale United
 Seaford United v. Bell Park
 Mornington v. Coburg
 Geelong v. Hawthorn
 Yallourn v. Clarinda
 Moreland Park Rangers v. Hamlyn Rangers
 Corio/Geelong United v. Laor United

ROUND TWENTY-SIX (SAT. SEPT. 24th 1988)
 Moorabbin City v. Corio/Geelong United
 Laor United v. Moreland Park Rangers
 Hamlyn Rangers v. Yallourn
 Clarinda v. Geelong
 Hawthorn v. Mornington
 Coburg v. Seaford United
 Bell Park v. Springvale United

DIVISION FOUR

VICTORIAN LEAGUE FIXTURES 1988

ROUND ONE (SAT. APRIL 2nd 1988)
 Chelsea v. Boronia
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Langwarrin
 Ferntree Gully v. Rosanna
 Holland Park v. Pascoe Vale
 Karingal United v. Keysborough
 Williamstown v. Bentleigh Greens

ROUND TWO (SAT. APRIL 9th 1988)
 Keysborough v. Williamstown
 Pascoe Vale v. Karingal United
 Rosanna v. Holland Park
 Langwarrin v. Ferntree Gully
 Bentleigh Greens v. Karingal United
 Boronia v. Langwarrin
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Pascoe Vale
 Boronia v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City

ROUND THREE (SAT. APRIL 16th 1988)
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Chelsea
 Holland Park v. Langwarrin
 Karingal United v. Rosanna
 Williamstown v. Pascoe Vale
 Keysborough v. Bentleigh Greens

ROUND FOUR (SAT. APRIL 23rd 1988)
 Pascoe Vale v. Keysborough
 Rosanna v. Williamstown
 Langwarrin v. Karingal United
 Bentleigh Greens v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Boronia v. Holland Park
 Chelsea v. Ferntree Gully

ROUND FIVE (SAT. APRIL 30th 1988)
 Ferntree Gully v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Holland Park v. Chelsea
 Karingal United v. Boronia
 Williamstown v. Langwarrin
 Keysborough v. Pascoe Vale
 Pascoe Vale v. Bentleigh Greens

ROUND SIX (SAT. MAY 7th 1988)
 Rosanna v. Pascoe Vale
 Langwarrin v. Keysborough
 Bentleigh Greens v. Ferntree Gully
 Boronia v. Williamstown
 Chelsea v. Karingal United
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Holland Park

ROUND SEVEN (SAT. MAY 14th 1988)
 Holland Park v. Ferntree Gully
 Karingal United v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Williamstown v. Chelsea
 Keysborough v. Boronia
 Pascoe Vale v. Langwarrin
 Rosanna v. Bentleigh Greens
 ROUND EIGHT (SAT. MAY 21st 1988)
 Langwarrin v. Rosanna
 Bentleigh Greens v. Holland Park
 Boronia v. Pascoe Vale

Chelsea v. Keysborough
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Williamstown
 Ferntree Gully v. Karingal United

ROUND NINE (SAT. MAY 28th 1988)
 Karingal United v. Holland Park
 Williamstown v. Ferntree Gully
 Keysborough v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Pascoe Vale v. Chelsea
 Rosanna v. Boronia
 Langwarrin v. Bentleigh Greens

ROUND TEN (SAT. JUNE 4th 1988)
 Bentleigh Greens v. Karingal United
 Boronia v. Langwarrin
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Pascoe Vale
 Ferntree Gully v. Keysborough
 Holland Park v. Williamstown
 Chelsea v. Rosanna

ROUND ELEVEN (SAT. JUNE 11th 1988)
 Williamstown v. Karingal United
 Keysborough v. Holland Park
 Pascoe Vale v. Ferntree Gully
 Rosanna v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Langwarrin v. Chelsea
 Bentleigh Greens v. Boronia

ROUND TWELVE (SAT. JUNE 18th 1988)
 Boronia v. Chelsea
 Langwarrin v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Rosanna v. Ferntree Gully
 Pascoe Vale v. Holland Park
 Keysborough v. Karingal United
 Bentleigh Greens v. Williamstown

ROUND THIRTEEN (SAT. JUNE 25th 1988)
 Williamstown v. Keysborough
 Karingal United v. Pascoe Vale
 Holland Park v. Rosanna
 Ferntree Gully v. Langwarrin
 Chelsea v. Bentleigh Greens
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Boronia

ROUND FOURTEEN (SAT. JULY 2nd 1988)
 Chelsea v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Boronia v. Ferntree Gully
 Langwarrin v. Karingal United
 Rosanna v. Williamstown
 Bentleigh Greens v. Keysborough

ROUND FIFTEEN (SAT. JULY 9th 1988)
 Keysborough v. Pascoe Vale
 Williamstown v. Rosanna
 Karingal United v. Langwarrin
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Rosanna
 Holland Park v. Bentleigh Greens
 Ferntree Gully v. Chelsea

ROUND SIXTEEN (SAT. JULY 16th 1988)
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Ferntree Gully
 Chelsea v. Holland Park
 Boronia v. Karingal United
 Langwarrin v. Williamstown
 Rosanna v. Keysborough
 Bentleigh Greens v. Pascoe Vale

ROUND SEVENTEEN (SAT. JULY 23rd 1988)
 Pascoe Vale v. Rosanna
 Keysborough v. Langwarrin
 Ferntree Gully v. Bentleigh Greens
 Williamstown v. Boronia
 Karingal United v. Chelsea
 Holland Park v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City

ROUND EIGHTEEN (SAT. JULY 30th 1988)
 Ferntree Gully v. Holland Park
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Karingal United
 Chelsea v. Williamstown
 Boronia v. Keysborough
 Langwarrin v. Pascoe Vale
 Bentleigh Greens v. Rosanna

ROUND NINETEEN (SAT. AUGUST 6th 1988)
 Rosanna v. Langwarrin
 Holland Park v. Bentleigh Greens
 Pascoe Vale v. Boronia
 Keysborough v. Chelsea
 Williamstown v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Karingal United v. Ferntree Gully

ROUND TWENTY (SAT. AUGUST 13th 1988)
 Holland Park v. Karingal United
 Ferntree Gully v. Williamstown
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Keysborough
 Chelsea v. Pascoe Vale
 Boronia v. Rosanna
 Bentleigh Greens v. Langwarrin

ROUND TWENTY-ONE (SAT. AUGUST 20th 1988)
 Karingal United v. Bentleigh Greens
 Langwarrin v. Boronia
 Pascoe Vale v. East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City
 Keysborough v. Ferntree Gully
 Williamstown v. Holland Park
 Rosanna v. Chelsea

ROUND TWENTY-TWO (SAT. AUGUST 27th 1988)
 Karingal United v. Williamstown
 Holland Park v. Keysborough
 Ferntree Gully v. Pascoe Vale
 East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Rosanna
 Chelsea v. Langwarrin
 Boronia v. Bentleigh Greens

SPEZIALE'S
SWAN
SONG

Continued from Page 1

tried to approach a few of the real power-brokers, the sports editors of The Sun, The Age, The Sunday Press and the Sunday Observer to name a few.

I polled these gentlemen at the weekend, but none had heard of him; for a promotions manager he was remarkably reticent... a fault in a PR man akin to dyslexia in a sign-writer. Furthermore, he accuses us of 'misguided parochialism' here in Victoria, claiming that 'a bunch of NSL people in Melbourne tried to maintain that they supported the NSL, whilst at the same time they covertly supported a new soccer paper which openly criticises the National League'.

I presume by that he means Soccer Star and he's right when he says that we openly criticise.

Of course we do and we will continue to do so, if we think that the situation warrants it. But we are not supported covertly by anyone, not the Melbourne NSL and not the VSF.

This paper is independent and will continue to speak its mind, and what is more important, give people the opportunity to speak theirs.

— Les Shorrocks



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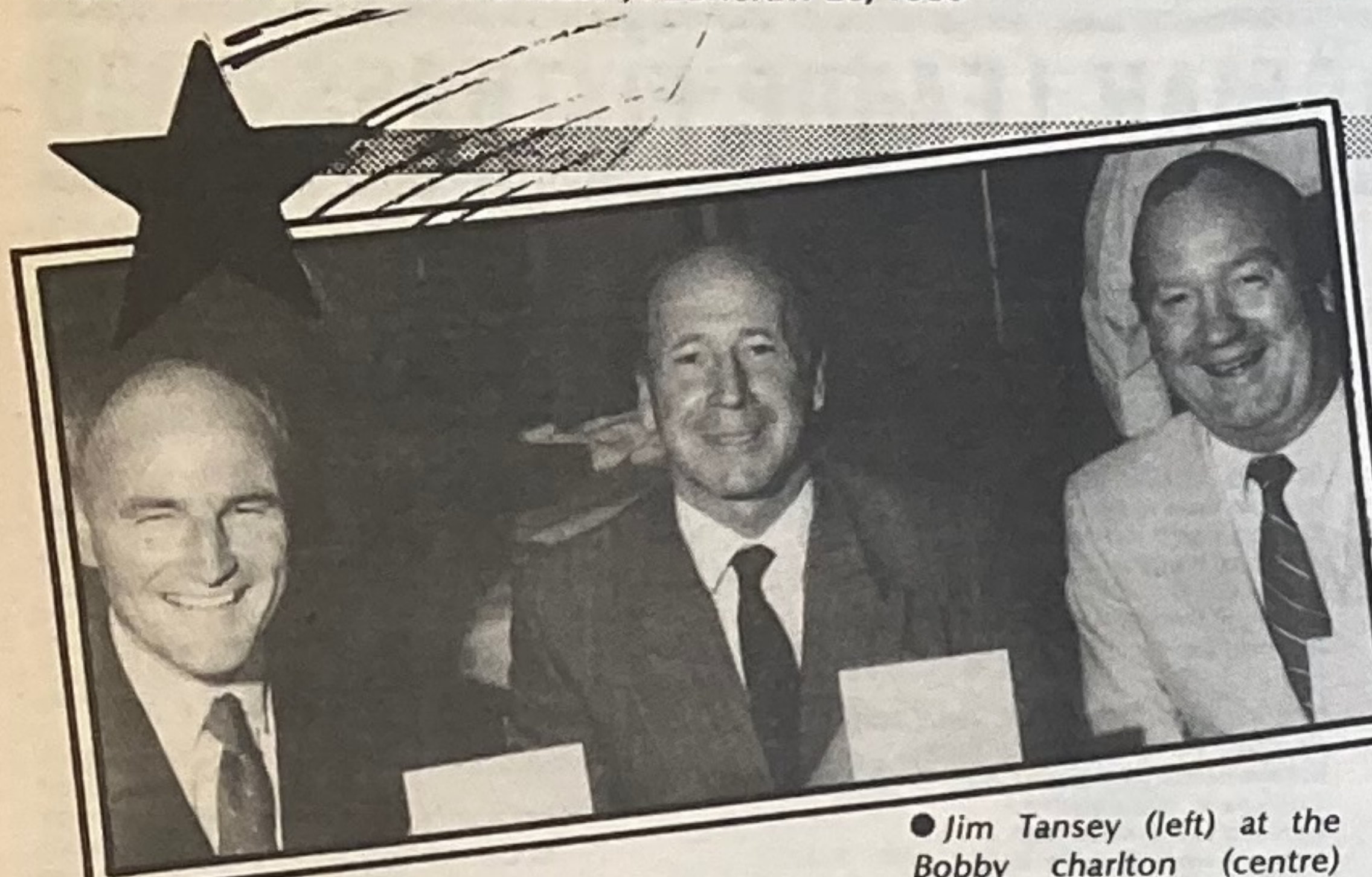
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● Jim Tansey (left) at the Bobby Charlton (centre) dinner with Terry Hennessey at the MCG on Friday.



● Sean Lane beats Gary Phillips.



● Juve's Mehmet Durakovic heads away bravely as Olympic's John Kosmina leaps in.

LES SHORROCK'S
Star Newsreel



● Juve's Joe Palatsides gets the better of Footscray's Ernie Tapai.



● "Let me listen to your heart," says Olympic's Abbas Saad to Juve's Fabio Incantalupo.



● Juventus goalkeeper Pat Marrama. Trendsetter

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Seen any good

Clubs desperate for front men

EVERY State League club is looking for a good striker

Over the past five weeks one question that has come up more than any others is: "Do you know any good strikers who are available?"

It would appear that nearly every club in the league feels that goal-scorers are a rare commodity these days.

Perhaps one of the reasons is that any player who does happen to score goals is quickly snapped up by a National League club.

It is a simple process, the player scores goals, the NSL clubs are offering better standard soccer and better money so the player leaves.

Biggest problem is that there is no one at fault. Look at poor Box Hill. Over the past few years they have had Andy Humble, he went to Croatia, then Steve Smith went to Preston.

Smith was replaced by Laurie McKinna, he too was successful and snapped up by Heidelberg.

Many players have made the jump.

Charlie Egan, one of the most prolific scorers for many years, came from Frankston City.

On the bright side, there are signs that we

may not have to keep relying on overseas players to score the goals, Paul Trimboli and John Markovski are prime examples of young players coming through to make the grade.

It is a problem that State League clubs must come to terms with that if they do have a good striker more often than not he will be approached by the higher leagues.

But last week two clubs who have both claimed they are short of strikers played against each other.

The result, a 3-3 draw. Perhaps it is a good job they didn't have any good strikers or it could have been a cricket score!



●RINGWOOD City coach Rob Nelson (extreme left) introduces his three newcomers (from left) John Corvan, John Davie and Paul May.

McLean in comeback

FORMER Morwell Falcons midfielder, Jim McLean, has contacted Melbourne Croatia to inform them 'he's considering a return to Australia'.

McLean returned to the UK after he became disillusioned with the game after a spell in the National League with Melbourne Croatia failed to work out.

Secretary Steve Drazetic said: "McLean has contacted us about a

return but so far that is all we have heard.

"At this stage I think he would be available for transfer but he could do us a job in midfield," said Drazetic.

If he does return and becomes available there would be plenty of buyers interested in the Rothmans Medal winner who had such a great couple of seasons in the State League before his move.

RINGWOOD City, one of the sides who have been tipped for relegation this season, have gained three imports.

Coach Rob Nelson who has had limited success so far on the transfer market scene is obviously pleased the trio have arrived in time to be considered for the first game next weekend.

Irishman John Corvan, a midfielder who has had

experience with Newry Town in Ireland, has emigrated and not used one of the club's visa vacancies.

John Davie, a 34-year-old striker from Aylesbury United will

lead the strike force.

He was Aylesbury's leading scorer last season.

Completing the trio is Paul May, a 24-year-old defender from Tottenham United.

May is a former South Midland representative.

If these three can fire then the season may be a little brighter than most have predicted for the newly-promoted Ringwood side.

Ricoh Dockerty Cup draw

Rangers, Chelsea v. Port Melbourne, Nth. Geelong v. Seaford United, Altona City v. Fernree Gully, Bell Park v. Lalor United, Karingal Utd v. Werribee, Yallourn v. Nunawading City, Sandbury Utd, E. Coburg.

Byes: Hawthorn City, Sandringham City, Clifton Hill, Springvale Utd, Hawthorn City, Rosanna, Albion, Clarinda, Mooroolbark, Altona Gate, Heidelberg City, Doveton, Langwarrin, Waverley City, Sunbury Utd, E. Brunswick/Ivanhoe.

Victorian League Cup Draw Preliminary Round, Saturday, February 27. Kick off 3 pm.

Rosanna v. Karingal Utd, Dandenong v. Heidelberg City, Prahran/Brighton v. Sunbury Utd, Sandringham City v. Ringwood United, Williamstown v. Doncaster Rovers, Geelong v. Yarraville, Warragul Utd v. Mornington.

Round, Saturday, March 12. Kick off 3 pm.

Williamstown v. Yarraville, Mordialloc v. Bentleigh Greens, Mornington v. Doncaster Rovers, Keilor v. Pascoe Vale, Prahran/Brighton v. Hamlyn

Famous left foot kissed

CORIO bricklayer Jimmy McArdle, is not the sort of bloke you would expect to go around kissing other men.

In fact, McArdle would be the last person to show his emotions unless the occasion was extra special.

But when England's leading soccer ambassador, Bobby Charlton, visited Geelong this week, McArdle just could not help himself.

The Manchester United idol was hosting a sportsman's night at the Bell Park Sports Club on Thursday night when

McArdle let his feelings go: Charlton entered the foyer and McArdle gave him a welcome usually reserved for the Pope.

As the alltime England great walked into the club McArdle flung himself in front of Charlton and kissed the left foot that had ruled the soccer world.

Charlton took it all in his stride and rewarded the Manchester United fanatic with his autograph.

Paul Miller

RICOH CAMERAS

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strikers lately?

Caulfield hold on to Harris

CAULFIELD City have secured the services of Paul Harris for the coming season.

Harris made a clean sweep of the State League Awards last season winning the Rothmans Medal and the Bill Fleming award.

Harris had been involved in speculation that he would join Heidelberg United but has settled at Caulfield.

President George Zafiroopoulos was delighted with Harris' decision.

"He is a good player and we are pleased to have held on to him," he told me.

Meanwhile, fellow Greek club Oakleigh are not having the same good fortune.

It is believed only Ally Dick has signed for the coming season so far.

Many players have been connected with the

club but signings have not been made.

Last season was a good base to work on but for some reason they have failed to go on with the job.

Coach Takis Sviggos, who last season coached Caulfield has asked Caulfield sweeper, David Brookes, to help in an attempt to solve the player crisis.

"How many do you need?" asked Brookes.

"About eight or nine," came the reply from Sviggos.

Now, unless I'm mistaken, the league starts next week and Oakleigh could find the trip to Green Gully a difficult one although at the moment at least they could all go in one car!



●PAUL Harris (second right) will wear the Caulfield colors again this year ruling out rumors of a move.

COME ON JIMMY!

Letter to the Editor

SIR: We have recently signed an Irish first division player, Paul Patrick McCurnaghan.

Jimmy Kondilos got in touch with this young man and after being told that he had signed for the Geelong club, Jimmy allegedly said: "You are going to play for a club run by back yard farmers who play back yard football."

I would like Jimmy, of Western Suburbs, to come and have a look at our facilities and set up, and remind him that players like Tuck, McCloskey, and Toal have all come from the farm.

I invite Jimmy to play his team at the present moment against our back Yard Farmers anytime, anywhere.

And just to give him some friendly advice that if he wants to sign any players it would be better to talk to the back yard farmers because we have signed the fellow, and he has missed out.

— Chris Van Beek (Geelong Soccer Club)

Jackie Charlton, as its manager in 1971.

Mr. Dixon subsequently came to Australia at the invitation of Victorian State League club, Ringwood City in 1980.

He also enjoys the knowledge that his son Lee will begin his professional career with his old club, Middlesbrough, in June this year.

Joining Riversdale as their playing coach, Dave represents the club's best chance of restoring some of the previous glory which saw it finish runners up three times in 1979, 1983, 1984 in the Industrial and Amateur Soccer League before being promoted to Provisional League in 1986.

Mr. Dixon was appointed by Second Division club Middlesbrough from 1967-1969, immediately before the appointment of the great English ex-international

UPDATE

CROYDON City finalised its recruiting for the '88 season with the capture of three Melbourne Croatia players, stopper Dave McIntosh, midfielder Jim Campbell and goalkeeper Mirko Runje.

A delightful Croydon president Michael Antolos, told Soccer Star that after considerable negotiating had taken place, all three parties, that is the two clubs and the players had reached an amicable settlement.

"This is going to be a very dangerous season for the State League clubs, with six to be relegated at the end of the season," he says, "and it was up to us to safeguard ourselves. I'm not saying we are going to win the League, but I can tell you we won't be relegated."

With only two weeks left to the start of the season, Oakleigh too has made moves to strengthen its squad. Ex-Heidelberg and Western Suburbs goalkeeper Spiros Kardamitsis and ex-South star midfielder Socrates Nicolaides were both signed this week.

NEW Morwell Falcons striker John Sokoluk had a dream start to his Australia career when he scored four times in his first game against Berwick. Even Bobby McLachlan was pleased.

NORTHCOTE City had a good result at the weekend gaining a 3-3 draw against Greek rivals Heidelberg. Strange thing was that the Northcote club would not allow Heidelberg to play sweeper Arthur Patiniotis who had been transferred from Northcote to Heidelberg.

SPRINGVALE City has lost the services of Neil Garvey who has moved to Perth.

OAKLEIGH is interested in signing Sunshine George Cross striker, Carl Gilder. He has been training at the club in recent weeks.

Want a trip to Scotland?

THE annual Aberdeen International Festival for school-boys is on again!

A team from each of these age groups will be formed to represent Melbourne. If you are interested, ring the respective

coaches; Under/15 Bill Marshall on 739 1497, Under/17 Brian Scott 735 3011, and Under/18 John McDaid 720 3327.

More information may be gained at a meeting at Knox City Soccer Club on February 29.

The tournament runs from July 8 for three weeks and afterwards the opportunity is available to go on to the Ian Rush Tournament at Aberystwith in Wales.

Don't miss Cutler's comment next Thursday

We're going too far

THE disenchantment caused in club circles by the new "get tough" policy adopted by our referees is growing to such an extent that Joe Caruso, vice-president and NSL delegate of Brunswick Juventus, is to call for an investigation into the matter.

He wants an independent committee to look into the cause and effect of what he describes as policy of "passive resistance or else."

"It is getting out of hand already and I believe we must look carefully at what effect it is having on the game," he says.

"I am as much in favor of punishing the tough guys whose only contributions to games is to kick as many players as possible and prevent the skillful players from playing."

"But we're going too far. Recently Oscar Crino has been sent off twice and Mike Petersen once. Neither of them can be called tough players."

"I sympathise with the referees. They have

a difficult job to do and they are trying to do it to the best of their ability. But if the present trend continues we will be driving people away from the game."

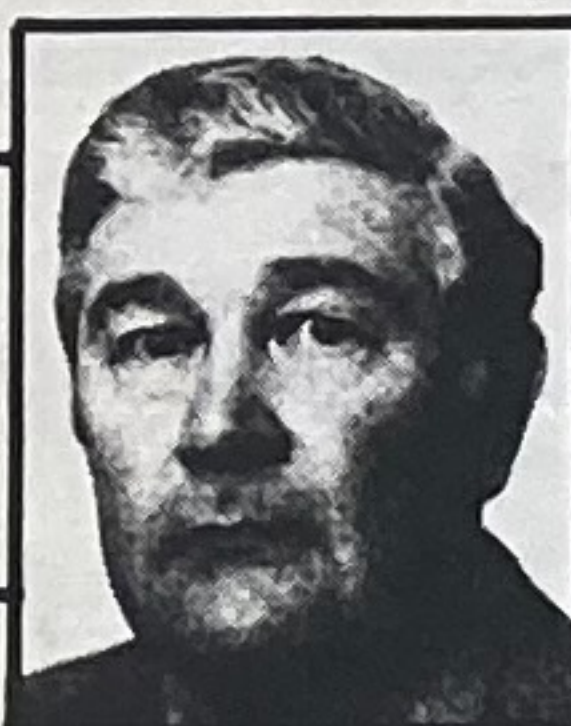
"There are inconsistencies as there always have been and that is what I want cleared up as soon as possible."

"I know other club officials feel as I do. I have heard many complaints already this season. We really have to talk this out."

"I would like the NSL to take the initiative and I have written a letter to this effect. It is no witch hunt, but a genuine attempt to clear the air."

"I have no way of knowing just how many

By Bob Brian
of the
Melbourne
Herald



players have already been sent off or suspended for 'earning' 12 disciplinary points, but it has to be close to a record."

"It can only get worse as the season goes on and the points keep piling up."

"Some coaches have already expressed their fears about needing

huge squads to make up for the number of players they expect to lose to suspensions throughout the season."

"How many clubs can afford squads of 20 or so? Not many, if any. But that's what it's going to take and it will play havoc with club budgets."

Rale Rasic, of Apia

Leichhardt, is one of the concerned coaches, who claims: "Mark my words, the level of punishment given out by referees for offences on the field will encourage some players to cheat."

Caruso adds with a touch of cynicism: "Maybe coaches will teach players to take a dive as part of their coaching methods. It

could certainly pay off."

One other official pointed out: "Referees have been given a \$50 rise and it hasn't made them \$50 better as referees."

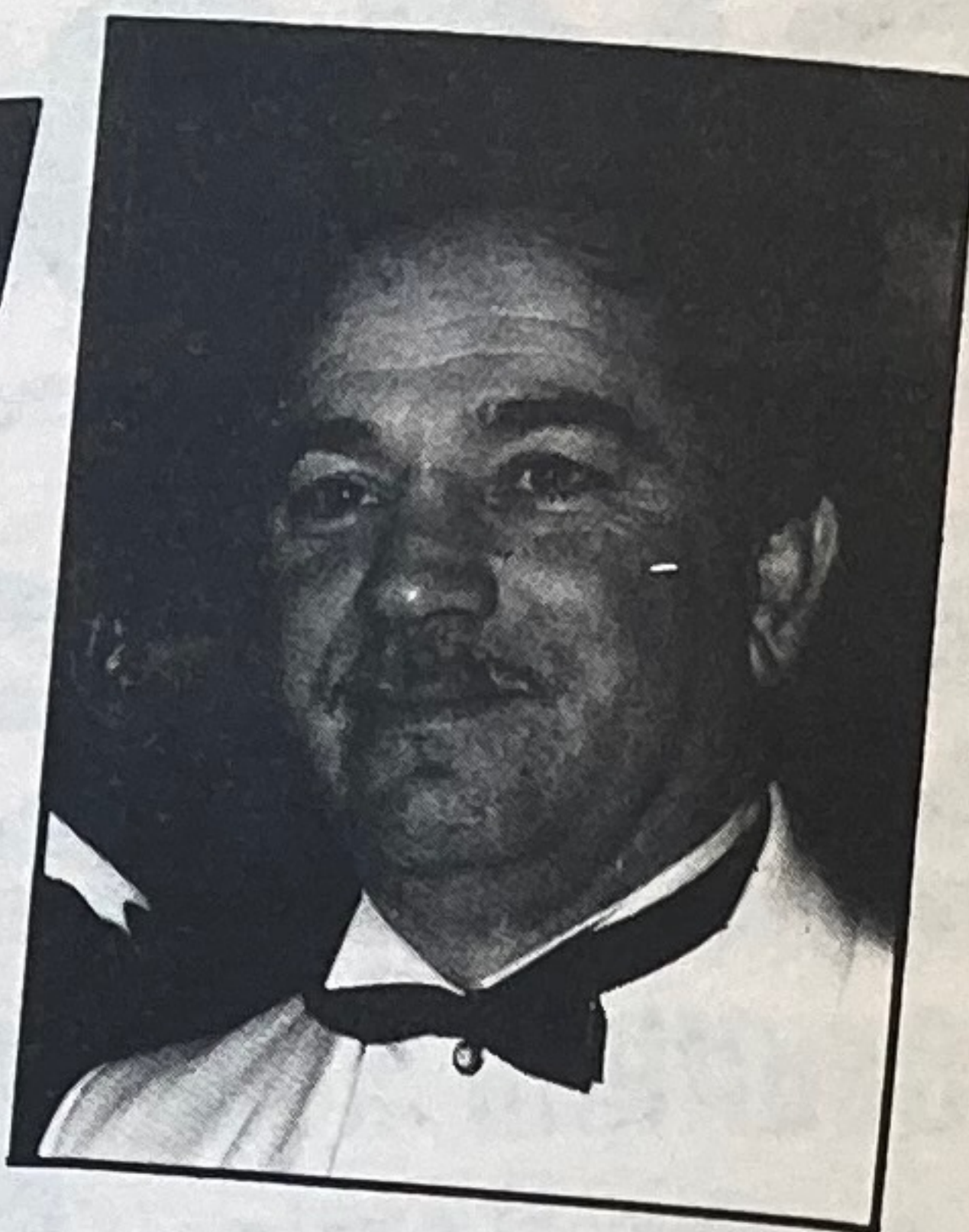
"What it has done, though, is make the job more worth doing and obviously they will be less likely to jeopardise their positions by not sticking strictly to the laws when they otherwise may have

used a little common-sense."

Players claim that tougher punishment is making them all the more frustrated, especially in the case of minor offences."

And we all know that frustrated players are likely to commit more offences."

It's a vicious circle which threatens to close in and eventually strangle the game as a spectacle."



Joe Caruso.

Mike's the Bergers' Favourite

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Caulfield City Soccer Club

requires coaches for its Junior teams aged Under/11 to Under/16.

How Junior Players in these age groups are also welcome.

RING MR GEORGE ZAFIROPOULOS
ON 578 5694 AH.

Nunawading City Soccer Club

is seeking the services of a coach, playing or non-playing for its reserve team.

Salary is negotiable.
How players are also welcome.

APPLY TO MR PETER KARAK,
460 1864 BH, or 233 5913 AH.

HEIDELBERG captain Mike Valentine is something of a magician according to his predecessor Theo Selemidis, that master of the understatement.

Valentine also is a pianist, I'm told and for those who don't know much about him as a soccer player, take it from me that he can play. But what intrigues me about the Heidelberg midfielder is the strange twists his career has undertaken.

If there's a better example of how a player's fate can be determined by falling in and out of favour with coaches I've yet to hear of it.

Plucked from the relative obscurity of Box Hill (please don't phone me about that one, Anne McPhee) Valentine didn't take long to be respected for his stamina and passing as a midfielder.

He's all go and earned the respect of judges as astute as Len McKendry and Bill Murray, among others.

He's been at Heidelberg since the early 80s, no mean feat given the manner in which that club once went about its off-field business.

There were times when Valentine's name was whispered by the men that matter as a possible Soccerroo.

There were other times, and not too long ago at that, when his name was on then off then on then off the transfer list at Heidelberg when it seemed that Brian Garvey (now at South Melbourne Hellas) had eyes for all others except Valentine.

But the pendulum swung back in Valentine's favour with Garvey's departure at the end of last season and Terry Hennessy's appearance at the Heidelberg helm.

Now one of the club's longest serving players has had his service rewarded and what a fine choice Valentine is as captain.

You'll never hear him 'slugging' teammates or running them down behind their backs. That's simply not his style.

He's courteous and articulate and, I'm told, has a keen sense of humor albeit very dry.

By
Craig
MacKenzie



bind in which he was placed not too long ago and emerge once more as a favorite of the Heidelberg fans?

IT'S hard to believe that discussion on Frank Arok's suggestion that Kiwis be blamed at club level here reached the highest levels in Australian soccer.

I thought that such a blatantly racist policy would have been nipped in the bud, but no, the bigwigs had to sit in judgement of it.

Thank goodness they didn't agree to its implementation.

Had they done so, they would have given the Kiwis all the ammunition they needed to whip their men into a frenzy when confronted by the sight of a Soccerroo strip.

And why were the Kiwis singled out? Why not ban all Jewish and Southern American players in Australia?

After all, you'd expect Israel and a South

American country to present greater hurdles along the path to Italy in 1990, wouldn't you? Let's not discriminate while we're in such a paranoid state.

Jewish players will be telegraphed Tel Aviv with the latest information on the Soccerroos as will be stopped immediately else our grand dream of reaching Italy will never materialise.

Let's not stop there. What happens when we reach Italy and start dreaming of advancing to the second stage of the World Cup finals?

Act now or all else is lost.

Ban Scots, Greeks, Irish, English, Italians, Yugoslavs, Hungarians, Dutch...

SOME 'important' VIP people now are denying that chairman Jack Reilly recently tendered his resignation.

My information suggests otherwise. So

why did Kelly do it? Was he so dismayed by what he saw in the administrative arena that he decided to quit?

Was his action prompted by a confrontation in Olympic Park's VIP room when SOCCER STAR broke the story two weeks ago of Reilly's discontent with the NSL?

Anyway, Reilly has withdrawn his resignation and it's back to square one.

But one resignation that hasn't been withdrawn is that of Steve Speziale, the publicity whizz-kid employed to handle the NSL's Melbourne affairs. Speziale was bubbling with enthusiasm as he set out on the winding path towards gaining wide media coverage of the NSL.

No-one told him that his journey would involve negotiating a series of minefields and that along the way he'd discover the skeletons of those who had gone before him.

No-one told him that he'd be dealing, on one hand, with Melbourne-based soccer writers entrenched in their ways and, on the other, an NSL head office parochialism that questions Victoria's claim to being a state of Australia.

And so, he's gone, another castaway, another victim of the tide of cynicism sweeping soccer in Australia. Who cares?

Your Star Victorian League round-up

ITALIAN MARRIAGE LOOKS GOOD

THE amalgamation of the East Brunswick Abruzzo and Ivanhoe City soccer clubs sees the formation of one of the most promising Italian-backed clubs in the Victorian Soccer Federation.

East Brunswick Abruzzo Soccer Club, as it will now be known, was conceived when the Ivanhoe City club came up from Provisional League Division One into Victorian League Division Four.

East Brunswick, which had been languishing at the bottom of Division Four, showed that it had a good team when it made it to the semi-finals of the traditional end-of-season Italia Cup, having put out the new State League team Bulleen in the quarter-finals.

The merger will result

By Angelo
Sticca

in a stronger club both on and off the field, with a combination of a large squad of players to choose from and the added bonus of excellent social club backing and facilities.

E.B.I.A.S.C. will be coached by not one but by two coaches this year. Fausto Tarquinio and Mark Bernini will undertake the positions this year.

According to President

Tony De Luca, the team is shaping up well, with more than thirty-five players already on the books.

However, the team is on the lookout for more class players, having already signed Paul Borin from Brunswick Juventus as well as currently negotiating with Sammy Ruccia of Bulleen.

Preparation is valuable for this combined team, and a practice match against Kew Eagles helped to sort out the team, with the combine winning 4-0.

With a bye in the first round of both the Docherty and League Cup, Mr De Luca is hoping that the team can mould into a formidable combination for the kick-

off to the season in April.

Balfie Park will be the home ground for the combine, and although there are only two major teams, U10 and U11, Mr De Luca is confident that the junior teams will expand over the ensuing seasons.

It is also interesting to note that Joseph Montemurro the 17-year-old Youth team player from Brunswick Juventus, is to coach one of the junior teams.

Could this be the beginning to a new coaching career for young Joe?

All in all, 1988 looks like being an exciting year for the East Brunswick Ivanhoe Abruzzo Soccer Club, so beware all Victorian

League fourth division sides!

Fourth Division Victorian League team, Rosanna, is hoping that 1988 will be the year it sees a return to the form which saw it win the Provincial League Cup four years ago.

Under the leadership of new player-coach Stewart Blair, an ex-National and State League player, Rosanna President Margaret Staples believes the disappointing 1987 season which resulted in an unfortunate relegation will be quickly forgotten when the team steps out for its first Cup game against Karaling next week.

On the playing side, things look promising.

● Fausto Tarquinio

"We have practically retained all of last year's players, and we have also gained some new players as well," said Mrs Staples.

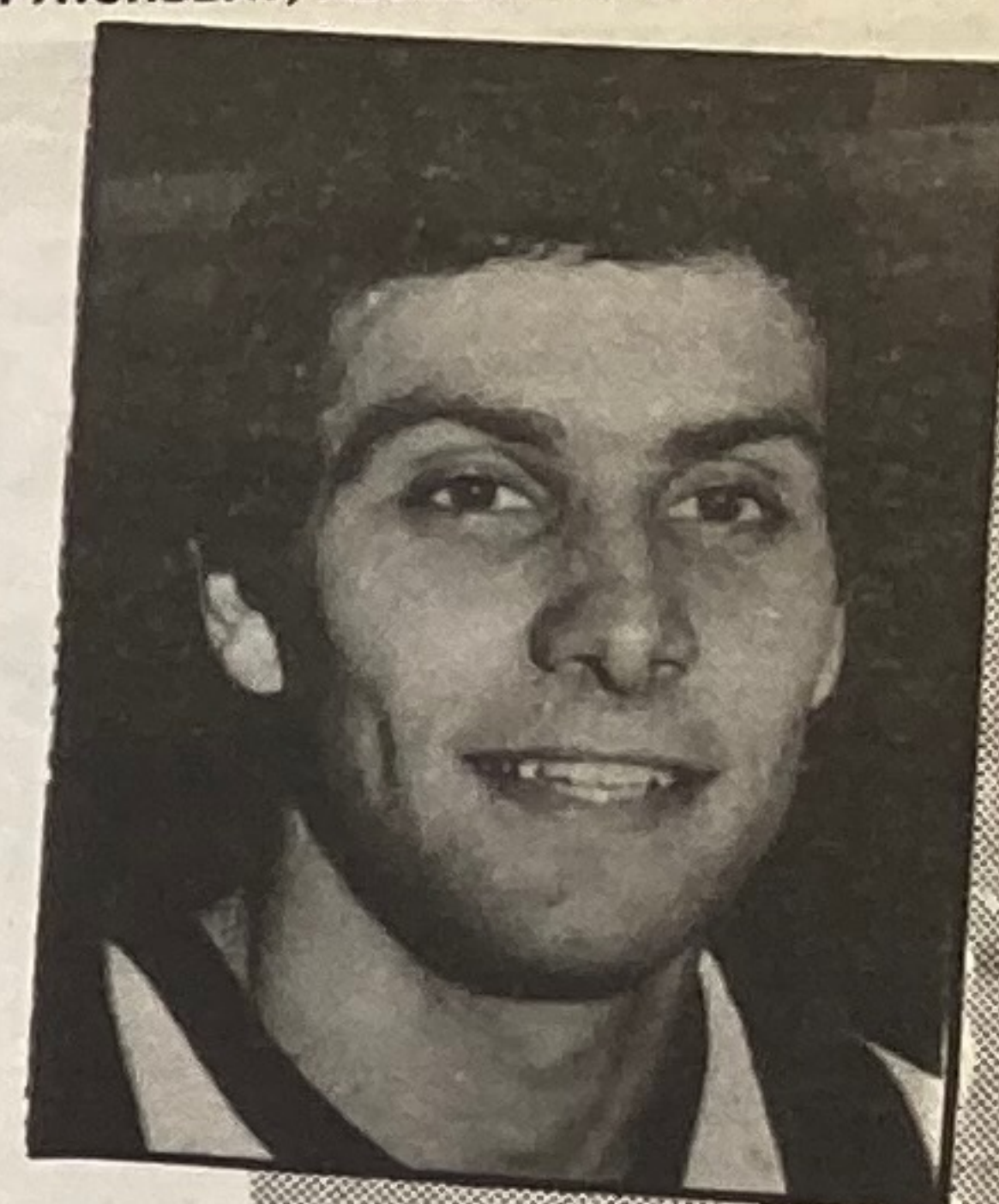
However, off the field Mrs Staples says that the club's future is most uncertain.

Like most clubs in its position, Rosanna is wary of V.S.F. boss Jack Reilly's rationalisation of the major leagues in Victoria. Mrs Staples under-

stands the need for this change, yet when clubs like Rosanna are threatened with extinction, justifications for these changes are hard to understand.

With the season kicking off in April, Rosanna hopes 1988 will be a championship year.

With the junior teams kicking off in March, perhaps some junior talent will be unearthed capable of providing a brighter future for Rosanna.



CUP WAS NAIL-BITING AFFAIR BELL PARK WIN

judged to have fouled.

It was all going Geelong's way at this stage as Park never had the answers to the fleet-footed attack.

Kieran Doyle forced Roger Savi to pull out a point-blank save as he crashed a header goalward and Park breathed again.

A barrage of shots battered away at Park's packed defence and the wall began to crumble.

Craig Plummer shot, Jones had the edge, the ball was still loose and Doyle somehow stuck out a toe and rolled the ball through the only gap on the goal-line, making it 2-1 just before half-time.

Any thoughts of Bell Park sinking in the second half were quickly dispelled as the home side fought back with a renewed hunger for the ball.

Playing coach George Waters then levelled with five minutes remaining when he headed a looping cross into the far corner of the net as Geelong paid the penalty for ball-watching.

It was classic cup soccer and even though the pace began to take its toll neither side was prepared to submit.

The stop-watch read full-time and still the result was dead locked.

Two minutes into injury time, Paul Mills sneaked away from his marker, heading a Cumming free-kick home via the far post, making it 2-3 in a game that never deserved to have a loser.

By Paul Millar

When a McCloskey shot crashed into the back of Mel Jones, Geelong's chances of easing ahead had gone and Park reversed the roles becoming the aggressor.

Geelong rushed 10 men into defence as Park forced seven corners in succession.

And while Geelong had looked sleek moving forward the Stead Park outfit looked decidedly shaky as Park moved in for the kill.

Penalty

Waters then levelled with five minutes remaining when he headed a looping cross into the far corner of the net as Geelong paid the penalty for ball-watching.

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Bobby Charlton

NINETY minutes of nail-biting soccer failed to separate Geelong and Bell Park in a Geelong Advertiser Cup clash.

But a goal in injury time clinched a finals place for Bell Park.

Former British soccer great Bobby Charlton kicked off the semi-final, and before he had been escorted to his seat Bell Park was one up.

Ken Prior and Eric Fleming made nervous debuts to the series and while they worried over who should pick up a loose half David Mills nipped in to slot the ball cleanly home and Park had the lead.

The goal stung Geelong into action and Park staggered back as the visitors swarmed

Poor Passes

Park continued its methodical build-ups, but poor passes were mapped up by Geelong and the home side once again retreated.

Liam McCloskey tormented Park in the air and Craig Plummer created havoc with his pin-point crosses.

McCloskey twisted his way through the defence, clipping a neat header, over the line, but he was

SOCCER STAR is published every Thursday by Soccer Star Pty. Ltd., incorporated in Victoria.

Distributed in Victoria by Magdiss Pty. Ltd., 250 Spencer St. Melbourne 3000.

EDITOR: Les Shorrock.

Address all correspondence to: Soccer Star, 18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161. Printer & Publisher: Les Shorrock. 18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161. Printed by Streamline Printers (03) 417-2766 Proprietor Soccer Star Pty. Ltd. 18 Hawthorn Avenue, N. Caulfield, 3161.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND FIVE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 28th



MELBOURNE CROATIA
V
PRESTON MAKEDONIA
OLYMPIC PARK
K.O. 6 PM



FOOTSCRAY
V
WOLLONGONG CITY

SCHINTLER RESERVE
K.O. 6 PM



SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS
V
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS
CHAPLIN RESERVE
K.O. 6 PM



SYDNEY OLYMPIC V. SOUTH MELBOURNE
PARRAMATTA STADIUM K.O. 6 PM

SYDNEY CROATIA V. ADELAIDE CITY
CROATIA SPORTS CENTRE K.O. 6 PM

MARCONI V. ST. GEORGE
MARCONI STADIUM K.O. 7 PM

APIA LEICHHARDT V. BRISBANE LIONS
WENTWORTH PARK K.O. 5 PM